

Jerome L. Davis

Judicial Positions held and terms (most recent first): County Court Judge

If appointed, by whom and when? Appointed by Governor Bob Graham as a County Court Judge in 1984. Served from 1984-1989.

If elected, when? N/A

Bar positions or other offices held? Served as Acting Chairman of the Criminal Law Committee of the Palm Beach County Bar Association.

Legal Experience: 1972- Served as an assistant attorney general in the Appellate Division of the Fla. Attorney General's Office; in 1972 also served in the Palm Beach County Solicitor's Office under Solicitor Marvin U. Mounts, Jr.; in 1973, served as an assistant state attorney under State Attorney David Bludworth. Enjoyed prosecuting cases with attorneys Stephen Rapp, Moses Baker, Bill Stowe and Dan Hurley. In 1982, he was selected to teach at the Trial College of the National District Attorney's Association in Houston, Texas. 1989-1992 served as an assistant state attorney in Dade County, FL. 1975 taught at Palm Beach Community College. Presently in private practice with a primary concentration in Family Law.

Other work experience: As a 10-year old, Judge Davis began playing golf and during his high school years, he worked as a caddie at the Mayfair County Club in Sanford, Florida. He carried golf bags for the pros. A skilled golfer, he earned a scholarship to attend Florida Agriculture and Mechanical University for undergraduate studies. There, he played on the golf team and traveled to Tuskegee, Tampa, Atlanta and other cities.

Education: Goldsboro Elementary School, Sanford, Fla.; Crooms High School, Sanford, Fla. Where he played on the football team as a defensive linebacker; Florida Agriculture and Mechanical University, Tallahassee, Fla. Undergraduate Major in history/pre-law. Graduated from FAMU in 1965; Florida State University School of Law 1969-1972. Received scholarships to attend law school from the NAACP Legal Defense Fund and the Ford Foundation.

Publications: Listed in Who's Who Among College Students in American, 1965

Notable decisions: In 1984, Judge Davis was the first to rule on DUI checkpoint stops. In the case of State of Florida v. James C. Hibbs, 84-12559MM A04, 84114901TT A04, the court found that checkpoint stops or roadblocks were minimal. Further, that the stop was conducted in a safe manner. In denying the defendant's motion to suppress, the court concluded that when balanced with the public's interest in apprehending drivers who are impaired with alcoholic beverages or other substances, the roadblock produced a legal and valid arrest. State of Florida v. Jenkins, 319 So 2d 91 (4th DCA 1975) established the guidelines for automobile inventory searches within the Fourth District.

Family members, history: Born in Sanford, Fla.

Parents: Father- Jimmie Lee Davis, Mother- Ruby Lee Hurston

Judge Davis' father was a golf caddie and his mother was a cosmetologist. His parents divorced when he was 12 years of age.

Siblings: one brother and four sisters

Children: three daughters: Joan, Tara and Maime

Memorable influences or life experiences: The birth of his first child; arguing his first case before the Florida Supreme Court and the Fourth District Court of Appeal.

Community Service: Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity; Recipient of award from the Palm Beach Voter's League, Member of Cunningham Bar Association, Member of Daughter's Sphinx, member of the NAACP, member of the Palm Beach County Bar Association, member of Pi Gamma Mu National Honor Society, member of the Florida Council on Crime and Delinquency, member of the Florida Judicial College, American Judicature Society, recipient of the Pro Bono Award from the Florida Supreme Court, former Trustee at Payne Chapel, AME Church.

Hobbies: Enjoys golf, running marathons. Ran in his first marathon, the "New Hope Marathon," Dade County, 1984. He has run in 10K Road Races in the past with the Honorable James Stewart and the Honorable Moses Baker. Also enjoys basketball and football.

Pets: none

Judge Davis was motivated to become a lawyer by his teachers- Mr. Ashely, in high school and Ms. Sally Fields in elementary school.